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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 January 8

Thomas W. Cahill

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New Orleans Jan 8th 1862

My Dear Wife

I am here yet not having been
relieved. The two Col's met me in Rank had a dispute
as to Seniority. in the mean time the unfortunate
affair of Galveston occurred, this with the horrible
gloomy accounts received from Tennessee may
have changed the Programme I have taken advan-
tage of this lull to present an application
for a leave of Absence for 60 days to run home
on my being relieved at this Post, I saw Genl. Banks
personally he was very civil and gave me hopes of
granting it. But his Adj. Genl. is an ugly Curse ap-
parently, so I dare not hope too much, The Secesh
in Etowah breathe the horrible news from the North Banks.
expressed the report of Rosencrans surrender which ma-
kes it look more gloomy & is horrible and I very much fear the
Union has gone in, Major Maken is well I hardly think
they will attempt much by way of Baton Rouge don't
think it can be done, he has lost his horse & died on the
passage, as also the Lt. Col of his Regt. he desired me to remem-
ber him as he has not written he has had no pay yet, I have all
my things packed for a move hope I may be home, No mails from
home since 20th Dec. 2 Steamers over due, may be the Alabama got

you need not believe any stories about my health have to do
something to get an excuse, keep it up though so I shant have
to flack it too strong when I get them if I do, you need say no
thing about my application, but I am very sick, which is
true enough of something. The Dr is well as is every body
else. Harvey has not been here this time don't know the cause
The weather is delightful here hate to leave it but think
this my best chance am afraid I'll freeze to death if I
get home but am willing to try, it will cost a pile of money
though hope to get a cabin in a day or two, I would
rather stay here until April if I could but am
afraid if I get hitched on to another Brigade, I wou
ld be hard to get away from it when I wanted to cou
ld hardly do it, The men were paid off and went on
a bust as usual but there were not many of them
in the City so did not show so much, I sent you 2
hundred dollars & 46 for scully. John M^r Devmore &
K sent you some for himself but he put with the others
old Corroll had 50cts left of his pay they tell me the old
scoundrel, but the most of them are no longer
we are looking with an anxiety for news from the
North though these steamers will bring dates as
late as we have them to 2^d Jan & it is said the ex
pressed news to 4th Ok it is terrible bad news from
Richburg and all around. am afraid the North
is done up. The loss of those vessels at Galveston
was a miserable affair I am afraid them will
be some thing of the kind at Mobile where
are those great Iron Clads that were to do so much
not built yet I suppose, now won't be until the
war is over or we are well whipped. It is rumore
ed here that the "Winona" gun boat was sunk by the
Batteries at Port Hudson and 1.3. & 7 disabled
no news of Concoran yet wonder if he is coming here
hope not enough I think unless a tremendous
force is sent them is not more than 12000 men in the new
arrivals, all small vessels my own means as large as any
give my respects to all friends kiss the babies for me. Love
to Ellen and yourselfs J. W. Cahill